Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06365 130821Z ACTION OES-07

R 130608Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1307

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6365

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, XV, AS

SUBJ: RATIFICATION OF ANTARCTIC SEAL CONVENTION

REF: (A) STATE 216562, (B) CANBERRA 1151, (C) STATE 035769, (D) STATE 012914, (E) STATE 011015

- 1. EMBOFF CHECKED STATUS OF AUSTRALIAN RATIFICATION WITH ROBERT CRICK, DIRECTOR LOS/ANTARCTICA SECTION, DFA, AND WITH ROBERT BODEN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (ANPWS).
- 2. BOTH CONFIRMED THAT THERE HAS BEEN ESSENTIALLY NO PROGRESS IN RATIFICATION AND THAT THE SITUATION REMAINS AS REPORTED LAST FEBRUARY.
- 3. ALTHOUGH BOTH CONFIRMED THAT IT NOW GENERAL OPINION THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 CANBER 06365 130821Z

IT NOT AFTER ALL NECESSARY OBTAIN CABINET APPROVAL FOR RATIFICATION, INTERDEPARTMENTAL DISCUSSIONS ARE NECESSARY AND THESE HAVE YET TO TAKE PLACE.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO REAL INCENTIVE WITHIN GOA TO PUSH FOR RATIFICATION BECAUSE OF THE FORESEEN POSSIBILITY THAT PROPOSED TREATY ON MARINE RESOURCES WOULD ABSORB OR TAKE

THE PLACE OF THE ANTARCTIC SEAL CONVENTION, WHICH THE NATIONS HAVE BEEN SLOW TO RATIFY. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME FOOT DRAGGING ON THE PART OF ANTARCTIC DIVISION OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE OVER QUESTION OF "AGREED MEANS".

5. NEITHER CRICK NOR BODEN WILLING PREDICT WHEN, OR EVEN WHETHER, AUSTRALIA WOULD RATIFY TREATY. ALSTON

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Message Attributes

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